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Application No.: 10/781,354  
Examiner: D. Hajnik

### Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently amended) A method of volume visualization visualisation comprising:  
providing of volumetric data, the volumetric data having first voxels belonging to a reference surface, the reference surface being a surface of a body region;  
entering a user selected distance by means of user interface means comprising a wheel mouse, an amount of rotation of the wheel of the wheel mouse being indicative of the user selected distance; [[,]]  
determining of second voxels of the volumetric data having the user selected distance from the reference surface; and [[,]]  
visualizing visualising of the second voxels.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising performing a segmentation of the volumetric data to identify the first voxels.
3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the distance of each one of the second voxels from the reference surface plane being determined along a direction of projection.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the distance of each one of the second voxels from the reference surface being determined by a minimum distance measure.
5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the distance measure being an Euclidean distance.
6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, whereby the volumetric data is medical image data, e.g. a thorax CT scan to be diagnosed e.g. for lung nodules, other lung diseases or rib fractures, and the reference surface is the surface of a body region, such as the surface of an organ, e.g. the lungs surface, or a pathological structure.

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7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the volumetric data being three dimensional microscopy data.

8. (Currently amended) A computer program product, ~~such as a digital storage medium~~, for volume visualization visualisation, comprising program means for performing the steps of:  
providing of volumetric data, the volumetric data having first voxels belonging to a reference surface, the reference surface being a surface of a body region;

entering a user selected distance by means of user interface means comprising a wheel mouse, an amount of rotation of the wheel of the wheel mouse being indicative of the user selected distance; [[,]]

determining of second voxels of the volumetric data having the user selected distance from the reference surface; and [[,]]

visualizing visualising of the second voxels.

9. (Original) The computer program product of claim 8, the program means being adapted to perform a segmentation of the volumetric data to identify the first voxels.

10. (Currently amended) A computer system for volume visualization visualisation, comprising:  
means for storing of volumetric data, the volumetric data having first voxels belonging to a reference surface, the reference surface being a surface of a body region;

user interface means for entering of a user selected distance, the user interface means comprising a wheel mouse, the amount of rotation of the wheel of the wheel mouse being indicative of the user selected distance; [[,]]

means for determining of second voxels of the volumetric data having the user selected distance from the reference surface; and [[,]]

means for visualizing visualising of the second voxels.

11. (Original) The computer system of claim 10, further comprising means for segmentation of

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the volumetric data to identify the first voxels.

12. (Original) The computer system of claim 10, further comprising means for volume rendering of the second voxels.

13. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the body region is an organ or other pathological structure.

14. (New) The method of claim 8, wherein the volumetric data is medical image data.

15. (New) The method of claim 8, wherein the body region is an organ or other pathological structure.

16. (New) The method of claim 10, wherein the volumetric data is medical image data.

17. (New) The method of claim 10, wherein the body region is an organ or other pathological structure.